

Northern Region Quality Improvement Committee

| Meeting Dates: | January 27, 2010 February 24, 2010 March 31, 2010 | Review and Action Plan | Follow-up |
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| Dash Board Items/ Studies: | <u>January 27, 2010</u> | <p><u>IL Home Closure:</u> Due to budget cutbacks, the IL home was closed during the month of December '09. This was very difficult for the youth as well as staff and caseworkers. The CBH International donated funds which were used to hold a reunion for all the youth that had been associated with the home. It was a great success! All the youth that were currently living in the home have been placed in other placements or in a place of their own and all seem to be adjusting well.</p> <p><u>Safety Model Training:</u> In 2005, a DCFS workgroup was formed to develop Utah's Safety Model. This workgroup analyzed information from federal and state legislation, national resource centers, other state systems that had already implemented a safety model and Utah's current practice. In 2006 a conceptual framework was finalized. The model can be described simply by the use of the triangle concept of looking at safety and the three major risk factors considered. These factors are threats of harm, protective capacities of the caregivers and vulnerabilities of the child. Currently, DCFS along with court representatives, GALs and other community partners are beginning the process of developing tools that can be used to assess these three major factors. It is hoped that</p> | <p><u>February 24, 2010</u></p> <p>Dawn Hollingsworth, northern region associate director, conducted the Safety Model Training. A handout 'The Key Concepts of the Safety Model' was distributed and various scenarios were discussed. The model basically consists of 4 areas...1. Safety assessment (threats of harm, child vulnerability, protective capacities), 2. Safety decision making, 3. Safety intervention (decrease threats of harm, decrease child vulnerability, increase protective capacities) 4. Safety tracking and adapting.</p> |

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| | | this will allow DCFS to make safety judgments based on tools that have demonstrated effective results. All DCFS caseworkers have received this training. Carol Baumann feels this would be a good training for the QI committee members. Carol will talk to the Northern region training team to see if a training session can take place during the February QI meeting. | |
| QCR Participation: | QCR Results | | <u>March 31, 2010</u> Final scores will be out in a month or two. |
| | QCR Participation <u>January 27, 2010</u> | <u>QCR Review:</u> The review for northern this year is scheduled for March 22 nd . Those QI committee members that would like to shadow a reviewer, please note this will be a 2-day commitment. Plus there will be a day of training the week prior to the review. Contact Carol Baumann if you'd like to participate. Someone from the State office will contact you once the schedule has been created. | 8 members of the QI committee participated as shadow reviewers. <u>March 31, 2010</u> <u>QCR Stakeholder Interviews:</u> Discussion took place between the QI members and OSR staff. Discussed connections between DCFS and community agencies, schools, the Family Support Center, etc. Discussed areas that are working well as well as barriers that are present. Discussed positives outcomes and the successes of our current kinship program. Also how the training for peer parents could possibly be revised to focus more on specific training needs as a peer parent, no so much training geared towards being a |

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| | | | <p>foster parent. New committee members shared why they decided to be part of this committee.</p> <p>Feedback from shadow reviewers...</p> <p>Learned not to make assumptions, to look at the whole picture, talk with all those involved in order to make informed decisions</p> <p>Discovered how many emotions/feelings are involved in cases, it's more than 'just a case'; it's a family/children's lives that are being reviewed</p> <p>Heard lots of compliments for the worker on the case. Learned how all involved worked together as a team and how important that is</p> <p>Even as a seasoned foster parent, gained more perspective and was impressed on how much is in place to help children in care</p> |
| Other Business: | Priority Focus Areas January 27th | <p><u>Kinship Locator Project:</u> A volunteer agreement form for this project has been created between the Family Support Center and DCFS. Pam Clark, from the FSC, has spoken with people from other states that already have a similar program in place. They talked about what has worked, what hasn't, what the barriers were, etc. The biggest</p> | <p><u>February 24, 2010</u></p> <p>On March 15th there will be a meeting with the interns, training will begin on our 'Finding Families' project. So far there are 2 cases that will be used. The goal is to eventually work with 10 youth in terms of finding/putting together a support group for the youth once they</p> |

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| | January 27th | <p>barrier for this committee so far is the confidentiality piece and how will the process of passing information between those involved look like. The committee will be focusing on 10 youth that are a year or two from aging out of the system and who have no real support system in place once they do. Sherri Engar, from the Christmas Box House International has funds that could be used toward this project.</p> <p><u>Placement Disruptions:</u> A handout showing disruptions over the last 5 months was distributed. This has become a bigger and bigger problem. So many of these children have multiple problems and foster parents/kin don't feel they have the training/understanding on how to deal with the behaviors. It appears there needs to be better/more crisis intervention options available. This committee will continue to discuss these issues each month.</p> | <p>age out of the system.</p> <p><u>March 31, 2010</u> Pam Clark has met with the interns that will be meeting with the children whose cases will be chosen. Are continuing to discuss/work on different sources of funding. Will continue to give updates each month.</p> <p><u>February 24, 2010</u> The committee decided to pilot a project starting with 10 cases. Foster parents, caseworkers, GAL, family resource consultants, etc. those involved in the case will be interviewed to find out why the disruption occurred. A subcommittee consisting of 6 QI members was decided upon to create baseline questions to be asked. They will present the questions at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>March 31, 2010</u> Presented a draft of baseline questions. The committee discussed these. The questionnaire needs questions specific to kinship placements, those questions will be different than those asked to foster parents. Decided that best</p> |

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| | | | <p>results will be obtained by in-person interviews rather than over the phone interviews. Will see about someone from DCFS setting up appointments, similar process of how the QCR is set up. Will have 2 committee members per interview team and will review up to 10 cases. Will be looking at first placement, timing and reason for very first disruption, look at the younger population and most recent cases. Look at cases where a long-term commitment was made and then disruption occurred. Committee members were asked to review the questionnaire and email Craig Monson their questions/suggestion. The committee will discuss again next month.</p> |